

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By the forgoing amendments, claim 4 has been canceled, and claims 1, 5, 8-10 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-3 and 5-11 currently are pending and are subject to examination in the above-captioned patent application. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification.

In the Office Action mailed May 18, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,151,005 to Takita *et al.* ("Takita") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,616 to Yanagi *et al.* ("Yanagi") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,625,373 to Johnson. Applicants have canceled claim 4, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, the rejection of claim 4 is rendered moot. Moreover, to the extent that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-11 remains applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants traverse this rejection, as follows.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to describe a data driver comprising "a state setting circuit setting each of the plurality of grayscale voltage lines at a "High" level or a "Low" level independently during the operation test; and a testing control portion for controlling the state setting circuit during the operation test to set a predetermined one of the plurality of grayscale voltage lines at the "High" level, and to set the rest of the plurality of grayscale voltage lines at the "Low" level." Thus, the data driver described in claim 1 may operate during an operation test to electrically disconnect

the plurality of grayscale voltage lines from the grayscale voltage generating portion via the switching portion; set each of the plurality of grayscale voltage lines at a “High” level or a “Low” level independently via the state setting circuit; and control the state setting circuit to set a predetermined one of the plurality of grayscale voltage lines at the “High” level, and to set the rest of the plurality of grayscale voltage lines at the “Low” level via the testing control portion. Therefore, the configuration described in independent claim 1 is configured to conduct the stress voltage application test by applying a stress voltage to each of the grayscale voltage lines easily and reliably in a short amount of time, and to accurately determine whether or not the data driver is defective in a short amount of time.

In contrast, Takita merely discloses that a first group of selection switches 202 and a second group of selection switches 203 are used to select a voltage from amongst voltages V_0 – V_4 to be applied to both terminals of a group of resistors 207 of a voltage divider 206 which generates a divided voltage. See, e.g., Takita, Figure 2.

Yanagi merely discloses a drive circuit for a display device that supplies a plurality of grayscale voltages to the display device comprising capacitors C1 and C2 and switching portions SW11, SW12, SW21, and SW22 that enable connecting and disconnecting a plurality of grayscale voltage lines from a grayscale voltage generating circuit P4. See e.g., Yanagi, Figure 31.

Moreover, Johnson merely discloses an operation test for a column driver 10, in which a column voltage selected by a selector switch 12 is compared with a reference voltage 26 in an error measurement device 22. See, e.g., Johnson, Figures 3 and 6

However, neither Takita, Yanagi, nor Johnson, in combination or standing alone, discloses or suggests a data driver comprising “a testing control portion for controlling the

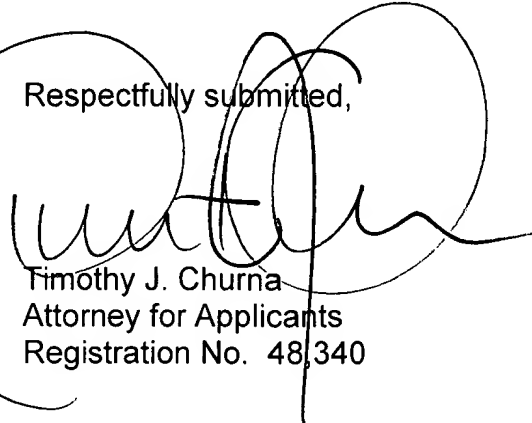
state setting circuit during the operation test to set a predetermined one of the plurality of grayscale voltage lines at the "High" level, and to set the rest of the plurality of grayscale voltage lines at the "Low" level," as set forth in independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, and 5-11 depend from or include the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2, 3, and 5-11.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants are including a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time, and a check including the amount of \$1,220 covering the \$430 large entity fee for such an extension of time, and the \$790 large entity fee for filing a Request for Continued Examination. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Petition for Two-Month Extension of Time